

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 9, 2005. Claims 1-8, 12-17 and 21-32 are rejected. Claims 9-11, 18-20 and 33-37 are objected. In this Amendment, Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 18, 21, and 33 have been amended. Claims 3 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 12-15 and 21-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagamine, (U.S. Application No.2002/0053319, hereinafter “Nagamine”). As discussed below, the pending claims are patentable over the above reference.

Claims 3 and 25 have been canceled.

Applicant respectfully submits that Nagamine does not anticipate claims 1-2 and 4-8, 12-15, and 21-24 and 26-32 as currently amended. Nagamine did not teach a catch cup that has a lip extending from the inner surface thereof towards the central axis of the semiconductor substrate and wherein the lip is angled such that an inner portion of the lip is higher than an outer portion of the lip. This feature can be viewed, for example, in figures 3A-3G of Applicant’s application. One exemplary advantage of such a feature is taught in Applicant’s disclosure. For instance as can be seen from paragraph [0031] of Applicant’s disclosure, any solvent 108 that lands on the tip of the top lip 62, beads at the tip and drips downwards onto the mid-section 42 of the catch cup. Because of the shape of the top lip 62 (e.g., the angled shape) that little solvent 108 is splashed back onto the dispense head 36.

Additionally, as discussed in paragraph [0032], any solvent 108 that splashes off the lower surface 70 of the top lip 62 ... is directed away from the wafer 106 and the dispense head 36.

Such a lip with an angled portion is not taught in Nagamine. There is no discussion in Nagamine that taught that solvent that lands on the portion 75 of the cup 70 beads at the tip and drips downward as taught by Applicant's invention. It is the angled tip portion in Applicant's teaching that facilitates such beading and dripping of the solvent.

In Nagamine, the portion 75 or 84, which the Examiner compare to the lip portion of Applicant's catch cup does not contain an angled portion such that an inner portion of the lip is higher than an outer portion of the lip.

For the reasons above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2 and 4-8, 12-15, and 21-24 and 26-32 are not anticipated by Nagamine.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-11 18-20 and 33-37 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to include all the limitations of the claims from which they each originally depended. Claims 9, 18 and 33 have been rewritten into their independent forms. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-11 18-20 and 33-37 are now in condition for allowance, and request allowance of said claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Mimi Dao at (408) 720-8300.

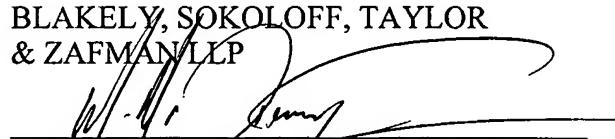
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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